



STATE OF CALIFORNIA
EDMUND G BROWN JR., Governor

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Contact: Jon Myers, (916) 491-3776
jon.myers@vcgcb.ca.gov

JULIE NAUMAN
Executive Officer

California Awarded Grant to Enhance Services for Victims of Crime

Funding will assist VCGCB in developing strategies to reach underserved communities

Sacramento, CA (September 24, 2013) – The California Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board (VCGCB) announced today it has been awarded a grant of nearly \$250,000 by the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) at the U.S. Department of Justice that will increase the state's ability to reach potentially underserved victim population in California.

"We are excited that California has been recognized as a national leader in providing compensation services for victims, and this grant will allow us to further ensure victims of crime receive the help they need to heal," said Julie Nauman, Executive Officer. "With these additional federal funds, we will be able to develop and implement innovative strategies to reach victims of crime who are underserved in our state."

The purpose of the one-year OVC grant is to provide funding to enhance access and delivery of needed services to underserved communities and populations in California. States across the country will benefit from California's work and be able to replicate in their own states' programs the innovative strategies VCGCB will develop through this project.

The VCGCB will identify those victim populations that are potentially underserved or unknown by the State's compensation program. The VCGCB will also determine the gaps in services for victims of crime who may have limited access to compensation, such as victims of human trafficking, youth, the disabled, immigrant and migrant communities, and rural communities.

"Providing services to crime victims throughout California, a state not only culturally and geographically diverse, but also the most populous in the nation, is an enormous challenge," said Michael Ramos, San Bernardino County District Attorney and VCGCB Board Member. "I look forward to working with CalVCP to increase our reach and ensure that all victims of crime are allowed the same opportunities of service."

If awarded funding in years two and three of the grant project, the VCGCB will implement the strategies identified in the first year. Those strategies may include designing a mobile application to improve

access to compensation and other victim services, exploring creation of an online system for submitting applications and reshaping the delivery of services through enhanced partnerships.

For more information about CalVCP visit: www.calvcp.ca.gov

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The California Victim Compensation Program (CalVCP), a division of the California Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board (VCGCB), provides compensation for victims of violent crime who are injured or threatened with injury. Among the crimes covered are domestic violence, child abuse, sexual and physical assault, homicide, robbery, and vehicular manslaughter.

If a person meets eligibility criteria, CalVCP will compensate many types of services when the costs are not covered by other sources. Eligible services include medical and dental care, mental health services, income loss, funeral expenses, rehabilitation and relocation. Funding for CalVCP comes from restitution fines and orders, penalty assessments levied on persons convicted of crimes and traffic offenses, and matching federal funds. The program is not taxpayer funded.